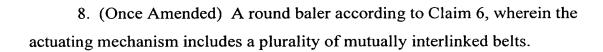
- 1. (Twice Amended) In a round baler for bailing harvested crops and having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the improvement comprising an actuating mechanism having a plurality of belts and rollers disposed adjacent one another within the baling chamber for enabling baling chamber size to vary when pivoted, and a tensioning arm provided with guide rollers and a pivotal arm, wherein the tensioning arm is pivotally mounted on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank, wherein the first end of the bell crank is pivotally mounted on a side wall of the baler's tailgate, and wherein a second arm of the bell crank is operatively engageable with a latching mechanism on a frontal part of the housing and means for increasing a latching force on the latching mechanism as a bale in the baling chamber increases in size.
- 3. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein the actuating mechanism includes a plurality of mutually interlinked belts.
- 4. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein a fixed stop is arranged on the tailgate below the second arm of the bell crank.
- 5. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 1, wherein the means for increasing a latching force on the latching mechanism includes a tension spring arranged between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler.

6. (Twice Amended) In a round baler for bailing harvested crops and having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the improvement comprising an actuating mechanism having a plurality of circulating flat-type belts and pressure rollers disposed adjacent one another within a peripheral region of the baling chamber for enabling baling chamber size to vary when pivoted, and a tensioning arm provided with guide rollers and a pivotal arm, wherein the tensioning arm is pivotally mounted on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank, wherein the first end of the bell crank is pivotally mounted on a side wall of the baler's tailgate, and wherein a second arm of the bell crank is connected to a latch which is engageable with a keeper disposed on the frontal part of the housing and means for increasing a latching force on the keeper as a bale in the baling chamber increases in size.



- 9. (Once Amended) A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein a fixed stop is arranged on the tailgate below the second arm of the bell crank.
- 10. (Twice Amended) A round baler according to Claim 6, wherein the means for increasing a latching force on the keeper includes a tension spring arranged between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler.

11. (Twice Amended) A method for bailing harvested crops utilizing a round baler having a baling chamber surrounded by a two-part housing of which a front part is rigidly connected to a frame of the baler while a rear part is in the form of a pivotal tailgate, the method comprising:

pivoting an actuating mechanism having a plurality of belts and rollers disposed adjacent to one another within the baling chamber to vary baling chamber size;

pivotally mounting a tensioning arm, having guide rollers and a pivotal arm, on the frame of the baler via a hydraulic cylinder arranged between the pivotal arm and a first arm of a bell crank;

interconnecting a latch with a second arm of the bell crank;

engaging the latch with a keeper to lock the two-part housing in a closed position; and

increasing a latching force between the latch and the keeper as the size of the bale increases.

12. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including the steps of:

pivotally mounting the bell crank on a side wall of the baler's tailgate; and selectively engaging an arm of the bell crank with a frontal part of the housing via the latch.

- 13. (Once Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including providing a plurality of mutually interlinked belts to form part of the actuating mechanism.
- 15. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including arranging a fixed stop adjacent the bell crank for engagement when releasing the latch and opening the pivotal tailgate.





16. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 11, including arranging a tension spring between the pivotal arm and a fixed mounting point on the frame of the baler for biasing the tensioning arm into a lower end position.

18. (New) A round bailer for bailing harvested crops having a frame, a frontal housing connected to the frame, and a rear housing pivotally connected to the frontal housing, the round bailer including:

a latch pivotally mounted on the rear housing and operatively engaged with the frontal housing when the rear housing is in a closed position;

a bell crank pivotally mounted on the rear housing and having first and second arms, the first arm of the bell crank operatively connected to the latch;

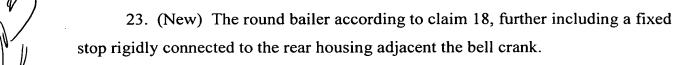
a rotatable tensioning arm operatively connected to the frame;

a pivotal arm rigidly connected to the tensioning arm for rotation therewith; and

a hydraulic cylinder having first and second ends, the first end operatively connected to the second arm of the bell crank and the second end operatively connected to the pivotal arm; whereby engagement of the hydraulic cylinder disengages the latch from the frontal housing and pivots the rear housing from the closed to an open position.

- 19. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, further including a keeper operatively mounted on the frontal housing;
- 20. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, wherein the latch has an arcuate end.
- 21. (New) The round bailer according to claim 20, wherein the arcuate end of the latch engages a cylindrical keeper mounted on the frontal housing.

22. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, further including a tension spring mounted to the frame and operatively connected to the pivotal arm.



24. (New) The round bailer according to claim 18, further including a rod intermediate the latch and the first arm of the bell crank.

